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**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 732.400

First Inventor or Application Identifier Robert A. Luciano

Title PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

Express Mail Label No. EK431586860US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Specification [Total Pages 20]
 - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 3]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
 - a. Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

*** NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
ADDRESS TO: Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231

5. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Copy
 - b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement Power of (when there is an assignee) Attorney
9. English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
11. Preliminary Amendment
12. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
13. Small Entity Statement(s) Statement filed in prior application (PTO/SB/09-12) Status still proper and desired
14. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
15. Other: _____

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

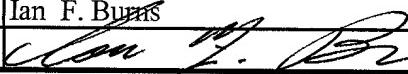
 Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: 09/419,748

Prior application information: Examiner Omar Flores-Sanchez Group / Art Unit: 3724

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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Name (Print/Type)	Ian F. Burns	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	33,297
Signature			Date 6/19/00

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IAN F. BURNS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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‡Admitted in Illinois & Nevada

June 19, 2000

Box NEW PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Rymond G. Bryan

Serial number:

Filed:

Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

Attorney docket number: 732.400 Luciano.CON-Printer Tear Bar System

Dear Sir:

The following is/are submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office for appropriate action:

1. A Continuation Patent Application.
2. Three (3) sheets of drawings.
3. A Copy of the Declaration for Utility Patent Application filed on October 16, 1999.
4. A Preliminary Amendment.
5. A Utility Patent Application Transmittal.
6. A Fee Transmittal.
7. A check in the amount of 345.00.
8. A return receipt postcard.

Cordially yours,



Ian F. Burns

Registration Number: 33,297

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Robert A. Luciano and Rymond G. Bryan
Serial number:

5 Filed:
Title: PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM
Attorney docket number: 732.400 Luciano.CON-Printer Tear Bar System

10 Group Number:
Examiner:

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

15 **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as follows:

20 **IN THE SPECIFICATIONS**

On page 2, line 13, please insert --a-- after the word "to".

25 On page 3, line 1, please delete "that" after "bars."

On page 4, line 4, please delete the first occurrence of "separated by."

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

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On page 7, line 16, please delete “21” and insert --23-- in its place

On page 9, line 19, please delete “portion” and insert --portion-- in its place.

5

REMARKS

Minor changes have also been made to the specification that corrects typographical errors. These changes do not add new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

The applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicant’s attorney, Ian F. Burns, at (775) 826-6160.

Respectfully submitted,



Ian F. Burns, Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration Number: 33,297

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PATENT APPLICATION

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PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

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Attorney Docket Number:

732.400

PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

This invention relates to a printer tear bar and presenter system for separating a portion of a media from a strip of media and presenting it to a user.

2. Description of Related Art

Printers are now widely used to print on strips of media. Once the printer has printed information on a leading portion of a strip, the leading portion is separated from the strip of media to form a page, ticket, voucher, coupon or other printed object. For example, many receipt machines print on a strip of rolled paper. Once the printer has printed on the leading portion of the paper, the strip is advanced to a position where a receipt can be torn from the strip of paper.

Various devices have been developed for assisting the separation of the leading portion of the media from the strip of media. These include various tear bars and presenter systems.

However, prior art tear bars and presenter system have suffered from a number of problems and

disadvantages. One of the problems associated with prior art tear bars is that the tear bars fail to cleanly separate the leading portion of the media from the strip of media. This is a problem even with perforated media that is intended to separate into predefined portions. If a leading portion does not separate cleanly from a media it may tear subsequent portions of the media.

5 A problem associated with prior art presenter systems is that users tend to pull on media before the printer has completed printing. If the printing is not completely done, the voucher may be pulled through the printer, thereby deforming any information being printed on the voucher. It may also cause the media to be aligned incorrectly in the printer so that subsequent printing jobs are also printed incorrectly. If the user pulls hard enough, the media may be ripped, leaving part of the voucher in the printing machine. Clearing or resetting the printer may require inconvenient and expensive delays to its operation.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

15 The present invention comprises a tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media. The strip of media comprises a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion. The tear bar comprises a first side portion and a second side portion. The first side portion is adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to
20 the strip of media. Similarly, the a second side portion is adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

The media may also comprise a plurality of perforations. The plurality of perforations are separated by a plurality bridges of connecting material. The perforations may be positioned in substantially a line.

The above description sets forth, rather broadly, the more important features of the present invention so that the detailed description of the preferred embodiment that follows may be better understood and contributions of the present invention to the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course, additional features of the invention that will be described below and will form the subject matter of claims. In this respect, before explaining at least one preferred embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of the construction and to the arrangement of the components set forth in the following description or as illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is substantially a schematic side view of the tear bar and presenter system of the present invention.

20 Figure 2 is substantially a top plan view of the media of the present invention.

Figure 3 is substantially an isometric view of the tear bar of the present invention in use with media of the present invention.

Figure 4 is substantially a front plan view of the tear bar of the present invention in use

with media of the present invention.

Figure 5 is substantially a left side elevational view of the tear bar of the present invention.

Figure 6 is substantially a left side elevational view of an alternative embodiment of the
5 tear bar of the present invention.

Figure 7 is substantially a detailed view of the center portion of the tear bar of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to figure 1, the present invention comprises a tear bar and presenter system generally indicated by reference number 10. System 10 comprises a strip of media 12. Media 12 is adapted to be printed on by a printer and separated into individual pieces. Media 12 is flexible enough to be thread through the printing and presenting systems of the present invention. Once
15 printed and separated from the strip, individual pieces of media may be used as tickets, vouchers, coupons, and other information carrying objects.

Media 12 is stored in a media bin or holder 13. In the preferred embodiment, media 12 is fan-folded and a folded stack 15 is stored in bin 13. In other embodiments, media 12 is rolled, in which case means is provided for holding a roll of media and unrolling it to dispense the media.
20 Fan folded media, however, has the advantage of producing relatively flat vouchers and occupying less space in the presently preferred embodiment.

Turning now to figure 2, media 12 of the present invention comprises a surface 60, first side 56, a second side 58, and a central portion 62. A plurality of perforations 50 are provided on

media 12 for assisting the separation of pieces of media from each other. Perforations are preferably arranged in lines 52 that are parallel to the lateral axis of the media. Distance 26 between lines 52 is substantially the length of each voucher that may be removed from media 12.

One of the advantages of the preferred embodiment is that lines 52 provide a convenient location 5 to fan fold media 12. However, it is recognized that other perforation configurations may also be used with the present invention. For example, lines 52 may be placed at an angle to the lateral axis of the media with corresponding adjustments being made to system 10.

Perforations 50 are separated by at least one bridge of connecting material 54. In the preferred embodiment, three groups of three bridges are provided in each line 52. A first group is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side 56, a second group is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side 58, and a third group is positioned in central portion 60. It has been found that this configuration provides enough bridges of connective material to allow media 12 to be pulled from bin 13 without breaking and yet the individual pieces of media may be easily separated from the strip of media. Other bridge configurations may also be used with 15 the present invention. For example, only two bridges may be utilized.

Media 12 may also comprise chamfered corners 64 at each line 52. When an individual voucher is removed from media 12, it has a chamfer 64 on each of its corners. Chamfers 64 allow individual vouchers to be inserted more easily into other equipment, such as a voucher reader or validator, and it allows media 12 to be more easily threaded into system 10. Chamfers 20 64 may also be used with a sensor to detect the position lines 52. This may be used to accurately position media 12 and to ensure that information for a particular voucher is being printed entirely on that voucher. The chamfers may be formed in a number of shapes. For example, the chamfers may be single angular lines, multiple angular lines, curves, or other corner treatments.

Media 12 may be made by a number of different manufacturers including Lottery Impressions, Inc. of Waterford, Michigan.

Media 12 may also comprise optical reference marker for use with an optical sensor to accurately position the media. In the preferred embodiment, media 12 is repositioned before 5 each printing job to correct for any slippage or error.

Returning now to figure 1, media 12 is fed out of bin 13 over wall 17. Wall 17 may have guide portion 19 that guides media 12 to printer 16. This may be especially useful when media 12 is first being threaded into printer 16.

Printer 16 is adapted to print information on the media 12 as it is advanced past the 10 printer. Drive wheel 23 may be provided for advancing media 12 through system 10. Drive wheel 23 may be a part of printer 16.

A large variety of information may be printed on the media 12 and the information may be presented in a number of different ways. For example, the information may be relevant to financial transactions, games, coupons, and prizes, and the information may be presented in 15 alphabetical or numerical characters, symbols, or bar codes. Printer 16 is preferably a LabelWriter SE available from Costar Corporation in Greenwich, Connecticut. The entire printer assembly, including printer 16 and controller 18 is preferably a Series 700 printer assembly available from TransAct Technologies, Inc., of Wallingford, Connecticut. However, a large 20 variety of other printers may also be used. It is understood that printer 16 may imprint ink or similar dye onto media 12, it may change a property of the media to create visible characters (e.g., heating the media), it may form holes through the media to render it machine readable, or it may code magnetic information onto a magnetic strip or the like on the media.

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A printer controller 18 is provided for controlling printer 16. Controller 18 may be mechanical or electronic depending on the type of printer. Controller 18 may perform other functions, such as controlling lights and communicating with other devices, such a computer or gaming device.

5 As media 12 is advanced, it is fed underneath a tear bar 14 and controller 18 through opening 20. One or more guides 21 may be provided for guiding media 12 along this path. Opening 20 is the front of the machine where media 12 is presented to a user. Media 12 is advanced so that line 52 is positioned next to tear bar 14. In the preferred embodiment, tear bar 14 is positioned a predetermined distance from opening 20 so that approximately one-half inch of media 12 is advanced past the opening. It has been found that presenting approximately one-half inch of media 12 to a user substantially reduces the likelihood that a user will prematurely grasp and pull the media. This reduces the chance that a voucher will be printed incorrectly due to slippage and acceleration.

The configuration of system 10 provides that a voucher is completely printed and line 52 is past printer 16 before any of the media is exposed to the user. This prevents a user from grasping and pulling media 12 until after printer 16 has finished printing. Of course, the spatial relationship of printer 16, tear bar 14, and opening 20 is dependent on the distance 26 between lines 52 of media 12.

System 10 may also comprise bezel 24 to provide an attractive appearance to users and to limit access to opening 20. A recess 25 may be provided in bezel 24 to allow users to insert their fingers to grasp media 12.

Light source 26 may be provided near media 12 in a position adjacent to opening 20 to illuminate media 12. Light source 26 may be activated by controller 18 when media 12 is

available for a user to grasp. Light source 26 may prevent a user from prematurely grasping and pulling on media 12 because the users attention is brought to the media only after the media has been properly positioned.

The present invention also provides means for advancing media 12 rapidly so that it is
5 more difficult for users to grasp the media until it is in a proper position. During a printing
operation, media 12 is generally advanced relatively slowly to accommodate printer 16.
However, if media 12 is advanced at this rate slow rate when the media begins to extend out of
opening 20, then it is possible for users to grasp the media and pull on the media before it has
reached its fully extended position. To counter this, the present invention advances media 12 at a
10 higher rate after printer 16 has finished printing.

Turning now to figures 3, and 4, tear bar 14 is provided for assisting the separation of a
voucher from media 12. Tear bar 14 comprises a first side portion 35, a second side portion 36
and a central portion 38. First side portion 35 is adapted to abut surface 60 adjacent to first side
56. Second side portion 36 may is adapted to abut surface 60 adjacent to second side 58. Center
portion 38 is located between first and second side portions 35 and 36 and it is adapted to abut
surface 60 at center portion 62. In the preferred embodiment, the three groups of three bridges 54
15 roughly correspond to the positions of first side portion 35, second side portion 36, and center
portion 38. Thus, when a pulling force is applied by a user to media 12, first and second side
portions 35 and 36 and center portion 38 provide friction and stress is applied to bridges 54.

First side portion 35 may be provided with tapered surfaces so that its height or thickness
decreases as the portion is traversed from the first side towards the center of tear bar 14.
Similarly, second side portions 35 may be provided with tapered surfaces so that its height or
thickness decreases as the portion is traversed from the second side towards the center of tear bar

14. This configuration tends to concentrate stress on a single outer bridge 54 rather than a plurality of bridges when a pulling force is applied. When stress is concentrated on a single bridge 54, the bridge tends to break more quickly and cleanly. Once the outer most bridge 54 breaks, stress is transferred to the next bridge until it breaks. This configuration also works well
5 when users who produce a torque by pulling on a corner of media 12 because the torque tends to concentrate the stress even more on an outer bridge 54.

First and second side portions 35 and 36 and center portion 38 may have roughened surfaces to produce more friction. The roughened surface may be produced by knurling, diamond coating, or by other means that are well known in the art. The roughened surfaces help keep the media in place when a pulling force is applied thereby creating stress on bridges 54 and it helps keep the next piece of un-printed media stationary.

As seen in figure 5, in the preferred embodiment tear bar 14 has a substantially round cross-section. The tear bar is mounted in system 10 so that the bar does not rotate. Other configurations may also be utilized. For example, as seen in figure 6, tear bar 14 may have a
15 partially circular cross-section.

Turning now to figure 7, center portion 38 has a height that is greater than surrounding portions of tear bar 14. The edges of center portion 38 may have rounded or tapered portions 39 to provide the stress concentrating effect discussed above.

Tear bar 14 is shown as rod or shaft-like member. This provides a convenient form for
20 manufacturing tear bar 14. However, it is recognized that tear bar 14 may be formed from other objects. For example, tear bar 14 could be formed from a substantially planar object by forming first and second side portions 35 and 36 and center portion 38 into the surface of the planar

object. If the planar object is sheet metal, the first and second side portions 35 and 36 and center portion 38 may be formed by pressing protrusions into the sheet metal.

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SUMMARY

Although the description above contains many specifications, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but as merely providing illustrations of some of presently preferred embodiments of this invention. Thus, the scope of the invention should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents rather than by the examples given.

DOCUMENT EDITION 10/2010

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first side, a second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:
 - 5 (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first edge of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and
 - (B) 10 a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.
- 15 2. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the second edge of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.
- 20 3. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

4. The tear bar of claim 1 further comprising a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of vouchers in the center portion of the strip of vouchers and apply resistance on the strip of vouchers when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of vouchers.

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5. The tear bar of claim 4 wherein the center portion comprises a roughened surface.
6. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed shaft.
- 10 7. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the tear bar comprises a substantially circular lateral cross-section.
8. The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the tear bar comprises a substantially semi-circular lateral cross-section.

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10. A tear bar system comprising:

(A) a strip of media, the media comprising:

- (a) a surface,
- (b) a first side;
- 5 (c) second side;
- (d) a center portion between the first and second side; and
- (e) a plurality of perforations, the perforations being separated by a plurality of bridges of connecting material;

(B) a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

- (a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a first bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first side of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and
- (b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to a second bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.

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11. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the

direction from the second edge of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.

12. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the strip of media further comprises a third
5 bridge of connecting material between the first and second bridges of connecting material, wherein the tear bar further comprises a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion of the tear bar being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to the third bridge of connecting material and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.
- 10
13. The tear bar system of claim 12 wherein the first bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the strip of media, the second bridge of connecting material is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the strip of media, and the third bridge of connecting material is positioned in close
15 relative proximity to the center portion of the strip of media.
14. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the media further comprises at least nine bridges
20 of connecting material, wherein three of the bridges of connecting material are positioned in close relative proximity to the first side of the strip of media, three bridges of connecting material are positioned in close relative proximity to the second side of the strip of media, and three bridges of connecting material are positioned in the center portion of the strip of media.

15. The tear bar system of claim 14 the tear bar further comprising a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion of the tear bar being adapted to abut the surface of the media in close relative proximity to the three bridges of connecting material in the center portion of the strip of media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media.

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16. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the plurality of perforations are arranged substantially in a line.

17. The tear bar system of claim 10 wherein the media comprises corner treatments adjacent to the plurality of perforations.

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20. A method of separating a piece of media from a strip of media, the method comprising
the following steps:

5 (A) providing a strip of media, the media comprising:

- (a) a surface;
- (b) a first side;
- (c) a second side;
- (d) a center portion; and
- (e) an end portion;

10 (B) providing a tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

- (a) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media, wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the first edge of the strip of media towards the center portion of the strip of media; and
- (b) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the media and apply resistance on the media when a longitudinal force is applied to the media;

20 (C) positioning the strip of media, wherein the first side is positioned in close relative proximity to the first side portion and the second side is positioned in close relative proximity to the second side portion; and

(D) applying a longitudinal force to the end portion of the strip of media, wherein the first side portion and the second side portion abut the surface of the strip of media and resist the longitudinal movement of the strip of media, wherein a strain is created in the strip of media.

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21. The method of claim 20 wherein the strip of media further comprises a plurality of perforations, the perforations being separated by at least a plurality of bridges of connecting material, wherein the first side portion is adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media in close relative proximity to a first bridge of connecting material.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the second side portion is adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media in close relative proximity to a second bridge of connecting material.
23. The method of claim 20 wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the tear bar decreases as the tear bar is traversed in the direction from the second edge of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.
24. The method of claim 20 wherein the tear bar further comprises a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of vouchers in the center portion of the strip of vouchers and apply resistance on the strip of vouchers when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of vouchers.

CONFIDENTIAL - DRAFT

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PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A printer tear bar and presenter system for printing on a strip of media and presenting a

- 5 portion of the media to a user. The media comprises a plurality of perforations and a plurality of bridges of connecting material separating the perforations. The tear bar comprises first and second side portions and a center portion. The side portions and the center portions are adapted to abut the surface of the media so that friction creates stress on the bridges of connecting material. The first and second side portions are preferably tapered to concentrate tearing stress
10 on corresponding bridges of connecting material. The printer and control circuitry are adapted to advance the media rapidly after the printer has finished printing to prevent users from pulling on the media prematurely.

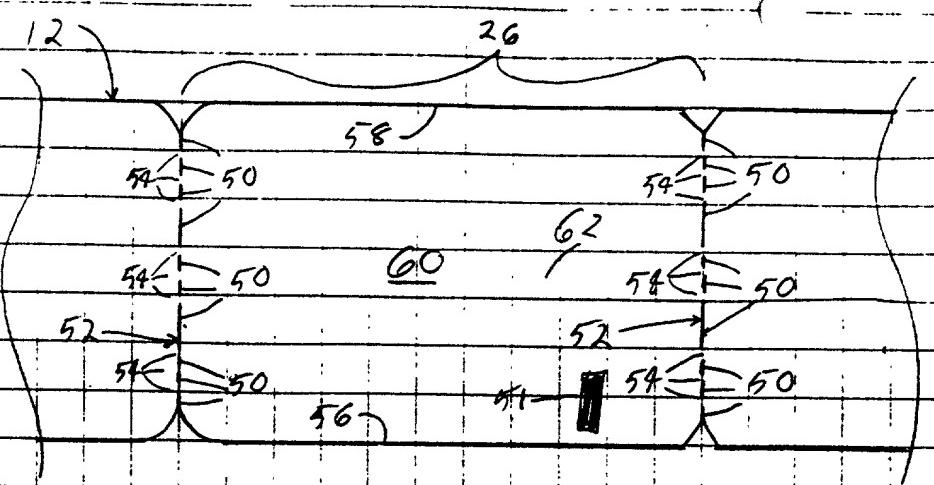


Fig. 2

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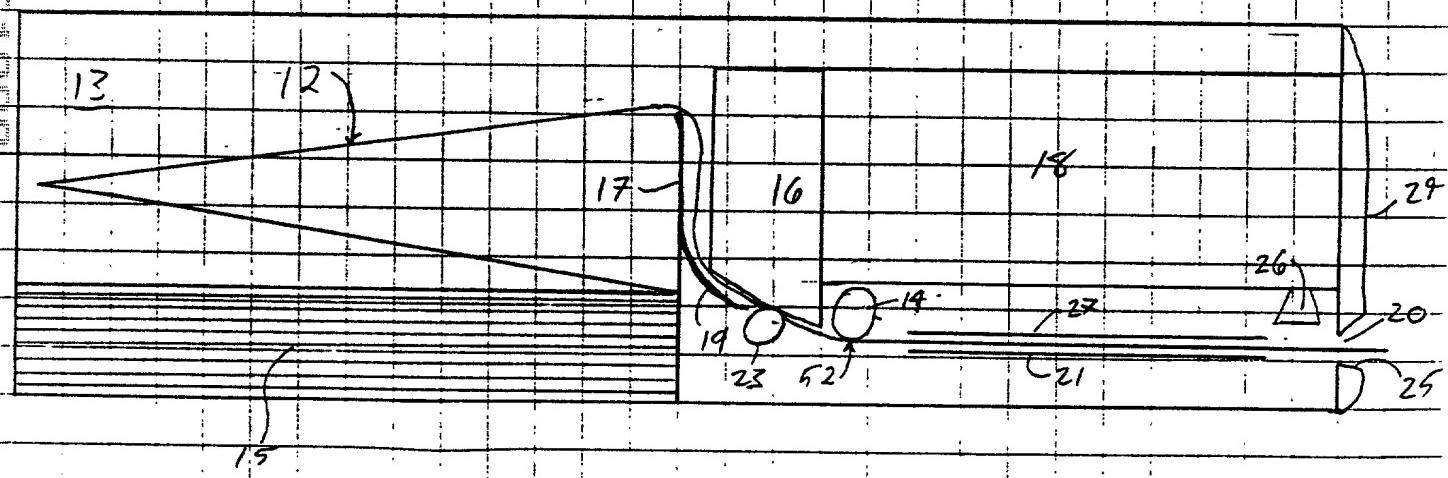
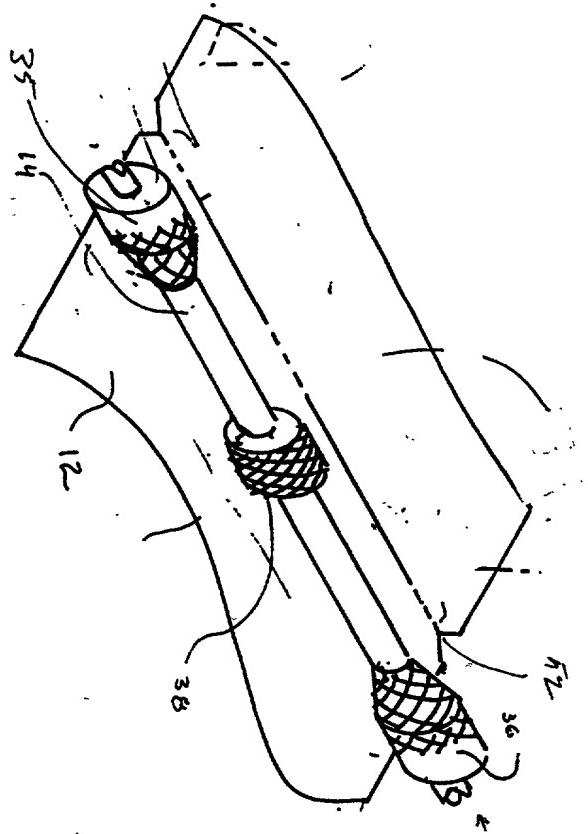


Fig. 1

Fig 3



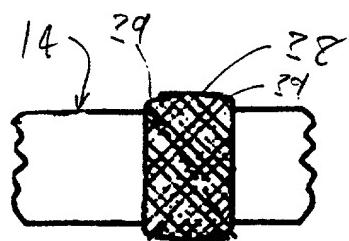


Fig. 7

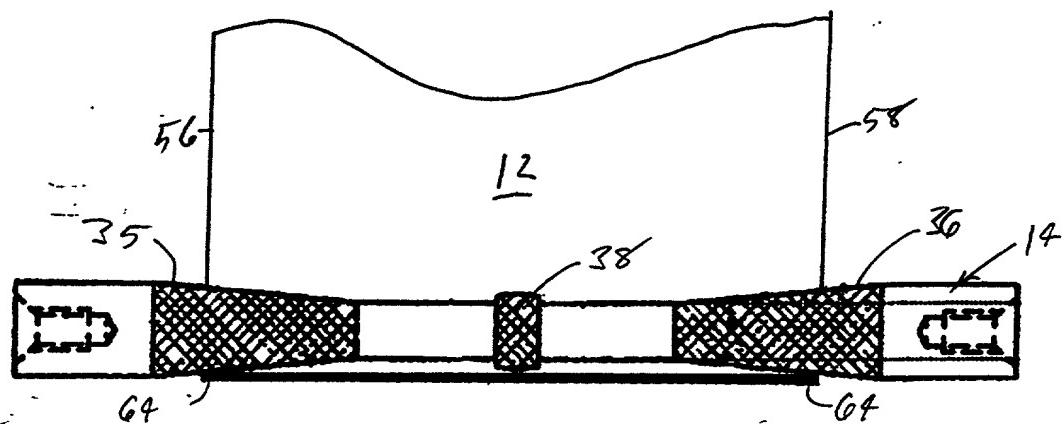


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

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PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)
OR

Attorney Docket Number	732.341
First Named Inventor	Luciano, Robert A.
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	
Filing Date	October 16, 1999
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named Inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

PRINTER TEAR BAR AND PRESENTER SYSTEM

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) **October 16, 1999** as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 356(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 356(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	Certified Copy Attached? NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

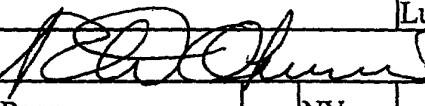
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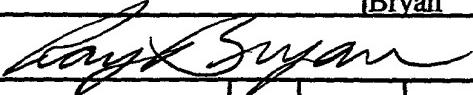
DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.				
As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number 21707 → <input type="checkbox"/> Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here OR <input type="checkbox"/> Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below				
Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.				
Direct all correspondence to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label 21707		<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below		
Name				
Address				
Address				
City	State	ZIP		
Country	Telephone	Fax		
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.				
Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor		
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname		
Robert A.		Luciano		
Inventor's Signature			Date	
Residence: City	Reno	State NV	Country U.S.	Citizenship U.S.
Post Office Address	300 Sierra Manor Drive			
Post Office Address				
City	Reno	State NV	ZIP 89511	Country U.S.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the <u>1</u> supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto				

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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)
Supplemental Sheet
Page 1 of 1**

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname				
Raymond G.		Bryan				
Inventor's Signature						Date
Residence: City	Reno	State	NV	Country	U.S.	Citizenship
Post Office Address	173 Nottingham Court					
Post Office Address						
City	Reno	State	NV	ZIP	89511	Country
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname				
Inventor's Signature						Date
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship
Post Office Address						
Post Office Address						
City		State		ZIP		Country
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname				
Inventor's Signature						Date
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship
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